CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 20, No. 32 TORONTO 2, CANADA December 8th, 1928

"THAT'S MY WEAKNESS NOW!"

15,000 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Exhibitors are singing it!

Hotsy Totsy. Did y' hear about Gilbert-Garbo in "A WOMAN OF AFFAIRS." It makes "Flesh and the Devil" look like a Pollyanna story!

Hello Ramon Novarro. Glad to see you in "THE FLYING FLEET." This one is the fastest air Epic of them all. You're my pal, Ramon!

Atta Baby, M-G-M. Norma Shearer in "A LADY OF CHANCE" is the kind of box-office pep that brings them to me . . . to me!

Zoom! Ta-ra! Here comes Lon Chaney in "WEST OF ZANZIBAR" and it's the old boy himself again in another "Road to Mandalay" thriller!

Listen to those flappers flap! They're out in mobs to get a load of John Gilbert in "MASKS OF THE DEVIL." What a show, mates, what a show!

Heh! heh! M-G-M's got another $2 smash on Broadway. Bill Haines in "ALIAS JIMMY VALENTINE." Talkie or silent — it talks box-office!

I just heard George Dewey Washington in Metro Movietone and I'm raving! Three topnotch Star numbers every week. You've gotta hand it to M-G-M!

"DREAM OF LOVE"! Some title! Fred Niblo director of "Ben Hur" did it. And beauteous Joan Crawford stars! Oooh la la! I'm glad I'm M-G-M!

TRADE NEWS: "WHITE SHADOWS in the South Seas" direct from 5 months at the Astor, N.Y., at $2 is sensational in general release. Playing third week Baltimore. Extended runs everywhere. "SHOW PEOPLE" exploited like an election, two weeks Capitol, N. Y.; second biggest week in history of Hennepin, Minneapolis; same story Chicago, Toronto, Los Angeles, Frisco, etc. "OUR DANCING DAUGHTERS", "EXCESS BAGGAGE", "WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS" continue to hang up records. Trade Press reports in Variety, M. P. News and others show that M-G-M pictures are doing the biggest business in all spots. We knew it all along. It's a pleasure!

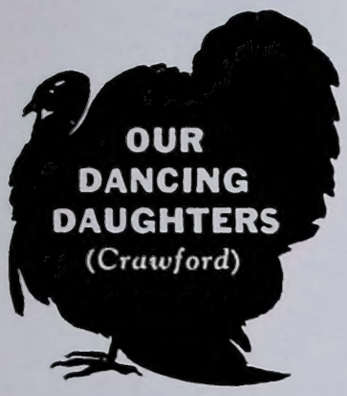
Member of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc.

PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

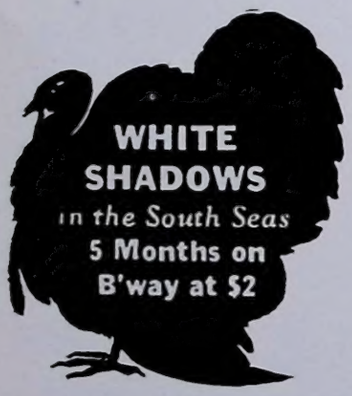
M-G-M TALKS TURKEY!



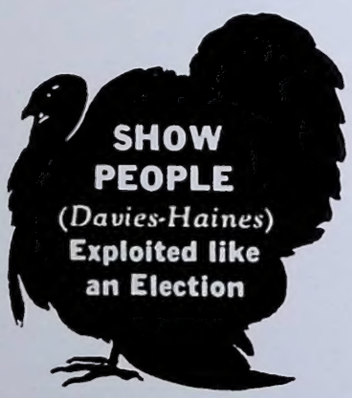
Oh Baby, how the records fall! Three weeks Washington, D. C. Three weeks Detroit. Two weeks Cincinnati. Two weeks San Francisco. Extended runs! Repeat engagements! What a clean-up!

Silent print plays Orpheum, Boston, to S.R.O. business after Sound engagement at State! Sound or Silent it's sure-fire at the box-office! Big business everywhere.

Lon Chaney thriller continues to hang up records Buffalo, Minneapolis, Boston, Syracuse, etc. Rated in trade press consensus as best Chaney draw of past few years.

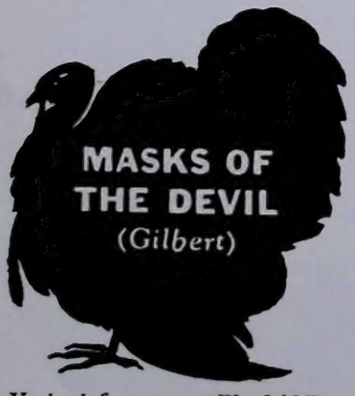


Broadway $2 Road-Show hit sensational in nation-wide release. Playing third week Baltimore. Extended runs Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, etc. Get ready for S. R. O.!

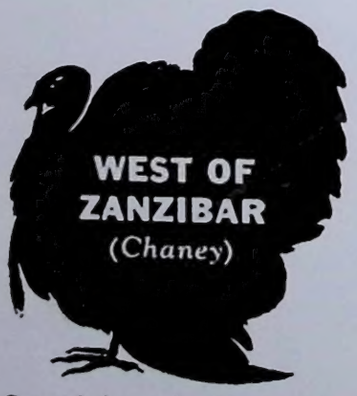


The new M-G-M wonder hit. Second Capitol, N. Y., week close to record first. Hennepin, Minneapolis, second biggest week in history. Chicago, Toronto, Los Angeles, San Francisco outstanding business.

Los Angeles preview covered by M. P. News: "Excellent box-office. Situations of excellent subtlety fully equal to Clarence Brown's cleverest touches in 'Flesh and the Devil'! Great bet for girls and women especially." Watch!



Variety's first reports: "Warfield, Frisco up. House ran ten grand ahead of Granada. Flappers out in force." "State, Los Angeles, downtown leader. Gilbert a natural." Another M-G-M wow!



Get ready for another "Road to Mandalay." Unique, colorful, amazing! Watch for M-G-M's newspaper—"Talking Serial Tie-up." Ask the M-G-M Manager.

Solid sell-out at $2 at Astor, N. Y. Critics unanimous: "Don't miss it!" "Rousing entertainment." "Will be at Astor for months." Just a few press comments. Great any way you look at it—silent or talking!

And watch for these: NORMA SHEARER in "A LADY OF CHANCE;" RAMON NOVARRO in "THE FLYING FLEET;" MONTA BELL'S thriller "THE BELLAMY TRIAL;" JOAN CRAWFORD in FRED NIBLO'S "DREAM OF LOVE;" and you don't know the half of what's coming from the Boys Who Never Stop Delivering!

IT'S A PLEASURE!

THE METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER LION
THE GREATEST STAR ON THE SCREEN

Member of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc.

"The Lion's Roar"

Is Educational's First Sound Two-Reel Mack Sennett Comedy. Ready for immediate release and backed up by the most extensive advertising and exploitation campaign ever arranged for a short feature!

"The Lion's Roar"

Is the first Mack Sennett Comedy of a series of Four which will be sold individually and which have Music--Sound--Dialogue

"The Lion's Roar"

Is made by the R.C.A. photophone process. The sound track is on the film. The characters and animals you see are the characters and animals you hear.

Canadian Educational Films Limited

Toronto - Montreal - St. John - Winnipeg - Calgary - Vancouver

NO Film Enterprise doing business in Canada desires to be out of any event which is important.

NOT to be in the Christmas Issue of The Digest "Is to be out of it."

THE Canadian Moving Picture Digest's Christmas Issue is a Canadian Film Event.

ALL the Film Companies which know their Canada are found in The Digest.

Copy must reach us not later than Tuesday, December 18th.

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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"God Save the King"

Portrait of H. M.
KING GEORGE V.
After a painting by Joshua Smith, R.B.A.

The eyes of the world are turned toward England's Monarch, who is battling for his life against heavy physical odds.

WHEN Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's News Reel flashed pictures of His Majesty, King George V. of England, at Loew's Theatre, Toronto, the applause which greeted each scene in which His Majesty appeared was sufficient proof to demonstrate how much His Majesty means to Canadians.

When we state that half of the world is silently praying, "God Save The King," we may be under-estimating the endless chain of prayers which are being said on behalf of His Majesty, expressions of "the heart's sincere desire," that His Majesty may win in his battle against the approachment of the Destroying Angel!

Headlines and minute reports herald the physical condition of King George V., in press, on bulletins, across the aerial paths of Telegraphy and Radio!

King George V. is known as "a good king," a monarch under whose reign the British Empire has won the respect of a world of nations; a monarch, who holds the commonwealth of nations which make up the British Empire, closely bound together, by a willing and mutual allegiance to their king; and although Britishers have long discarded the rule of the "Divine Right of Kings," Britishers see in His Majesty a kingly divinity, the spirit of a fatherhood, who has endeavored to serve his people divinely. God Save The King!

Ray Lewis

RAY LEWIS

Ray Presents

OSCAR HANSON has resigned as General Manager of Canadian Educational Films, to take a more important position, it is rumoured, with a producing company which has English affiliations!

We congratulate Mr. Hanson on his new arrangement, but certainly regret to see him leave Canada, where for many years he has helped materially in the development of our Industry. But more of this in our next issue, when rumours will have taken on a tone of definite connections.

THE APPOINTMENT of Joseph I. Schnitzer as President of the new FBO is quite in line with the marked advances in the Industry which Mr. Schnitzer has continually made.

Mr. Schnitzer has been indentified with FBO since the inception of the company; and when we say that he "knows his onions" we intend to imply that he knows the picture business with a showmanship insight and experience.

WHEN Joseph P. Kennedy became President of FBO he found in Joseph I. Schnitzer a moving picture knowledge which he was not slow to avail himself of. In fact, one Joseph was master of the other Joseph, but the Book of Picture Knowledge was in the hands of the lesser Joseph, and the senior Joseph was an eager disciple

The resignation of Joseph P. Kennedy as Chairman of the Board and President of FBO, occasions no surprise since the rumours appeared to predict Mr. Kennedy's voluntary retirement not only from FBO, but the Industry of Motion Pictures.

SOME have said that the Show Business has been very good to Mr. Kennedy and that he retires with several healthy millions; and since no one has yet called picture millions tainted, and since Joseph Kennedy is still too young a man to vegetate, I wonder what he is going to do with the millions?

MR. SAM HARRIS, ambassador of Anglo-American good-will, sailed for England on the Aquitania, Wednesday, December 5th, we take this opportunity of wishing him bon-voyage, and congratulations on the success of his visit to the U. S. and Canada.

WE TAKE pleasure in announcing that Mr. Harris will contribute a weekly London letter to The Digest, following an arrangement which has been recently made; and that your editor will contribute a weekly letter to Mr. Harris' publication, "The Cinema," covering various items of interest concerning U. S. and Canadian activities.

The London office of The Digest will now be at 80-82 Wardour St., and it is the intention of your editor to keep more closely in touch with British Film developments, as they relate themselves to the Industry here.

THE announcement of a Gaumont British chain of Canadian theatres, covering an initial outlay of a million dollars does not come as a surprise to The Digest, which casually prophecied such an event in its editorial of Dec. 1st.

The announcement states that the first Gaumont British theatre will be in Toronto; and the site mentioned as the corner of Dundas and Yonge Streets, one of Toronto's important downtown corners; and just between Loew's, Pantages, the new Famous theatre and the Uptown.

TIFFANY Productions Limited is to have forty-nine features and twenty-four colour shorts. Studios are planned for England. Seven new offices have been formed with a staff of thirty-five salesmen in the new reorganization, of which C. F. Bernhard is Managing Director abroad.

An office in Ireland will be opened in January and important offices opened, it is reported, in Canada. The English offices will be operated at Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Cardiff, Glasgow, Newcastle and Sheffield. Six pictures on the new schedule will be presented in London, in January according to a report in "The Cinema."

THE FBI banquet at the Savoy, London, proved host to over four hundred guests, representative of all the Arts and Industries, Finance, with the Film Industry in whose honour the banquet was staged, as predominant.

Sir William Joynson-Hicks, Home Secretary, proposed the toast to "The British Film Productions." His speech was of length, and lengthy also on wit, which discredits the adage that one has to be brief in order to be witty.

THE HOME SECRETARY saw no reason why British production should not produce about 250 films a year. Talking of the Dialogue Films, Sir William said, "They foreshadow a future where there will be no limit to the possibilities of film propaganda, for they will have the power to make or mar ony political party and any great scheme of education." The Home Secretary's address was broadcasted.

Col. Bromhead, Managing Director of Gaumont British, responded, and thanked the former speaker for his presence, congratulating the film trade for the co-operation extended to it by the Board of Trade; and also congratulating the Board of Trade for its alertness in being so well-informed in respect to the British Film Industry.

COL. BROMHEAD, commenting on the Film Act, stated that it had given a "tremendous impetus to British production and has brought an influx of new capital into the Industry."

In 1925, stated Col. Bromhead, there were thirty-four British films given a trade showing and in 1928 there has been so far seventy-nine. British exhibitors had booked as high as 20% of their screenings from British offerings, although the Quota called for only 5%.

THE QUOTA had increased foreign revenue and the European market was being strongly cemented into a trading reciprocal enterprise. More foreign business in British films was the result, with the exception of the U. S. which was still a difficult market to obtain.

Within the British Empire, commented Col. Bromhead, the distribution of British Films was steady and organized.

THE BANQUET'S outstanding guests in the Trade were Col. A. C. Bromhead, C.B.E., R. C. Bromhead, John Maxwell, S. Rowson, C. M. Woolf, (President of the K. R. S.), S. Eckman, George Pearson, F. A. Enders, H. Victor Davis (President of the C. E. A.), H. Bruce Woolf, W. Henderson-Cleland,

(Continued on Page 7)

Colossal Amalgamation of Theatre and Financial Interests Covering Entertainment

DAVID SARNOFF was elected Chairman of the Board and Hiram S. Brown, Executive Vice-President of the Keith-Albee-Orpheum Corporation, the theatre chain and vaudeville units of the recently formed Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation, at a meeting of the Board of Directors held recently. Edward F. Albee continues as President and the other officers are Maurice Goodman and J. J. Ford, Vice-Presidents, and B. B. Kahane, Secretary and Treasurer.

Joseph P. Kennedy voluntarily retired as Chairman of the Board and as a Director of K-A-O. The Board was reduced from nineteen to nine, and now consists of Messrs. David Sarnoff, Hiram S. Brown, Elisha Walker, Edward F. Albee, Paul M. Mazur, Marcus Heiman, Maurice Goodman, Lee Shubert and B. B. Kahane.

David Sarnoff was also elected Chairman of the Board and Hiram S. Brown, President of the Orpheum Circuit, Inc.

The Executive re-organization of the FBO Productions, the motion picture unit, producing and distributing, with Joseph I. Schnitzer as President, completes the realignment of the personnel of two important subsidiary organizations of all-embracing Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation, of which Hiram S. Brown is President and David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Board.

The new inclusion of major Vaudeville as represented by Keith-Albee-Orpheum chain of theatres from coast to coast in this new corporation; brings to the theatres of the great circuit the best resources of all the modern miracles of the radio, the speaking motion pictures, the photophone and television as now and in the future applicable to theatre entertainment. Speaking of the new corporation, of which he is chairman of the Board, David Sarnoff said: "It (the Radio-Keith-Orpheum) is building upon a foundation that has no exact parallel in the amusement field."

A broad basis of this foundation is the Keith-Albee-Orpheum combination of major vaudeville houses with its army of established and rising favorites made up of artists of all branches of the theatre, now entertaining an average of over two-million patrons daily through the United States and Canada. But the growing structural foundation, as Mr. Sarnoff points out, also includes association with the Radio Corporation of America and its subsidiary, the RCA Photophone company; as well as control of the Keith-Albee-Orpheum vaudeville corporation; together with motion pictures of the most advanced scope through acquisition of the FBO Productions Company; and, with broadcasting through the co-operation of the National Broadcasting Company.

These ultra-modern resources now at the behest of major vaudeville make of that institution not only the leader of the amusement world, but fit that giant with the seven-league boots of progression. As Mr. Sarnoff says, this twentieth century amusement structure has no parallel in the annals of amusements, and it is a fair forecast to say that if the world of modern science performs any more miracles in the way of adding to the enjoyment and the edification of the theatre-going public, the Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation under the conditions here recounted will be ready and able to present them under the most ideal conditions.

And, aside from the amusement possibilities of this new expansion, there is a material stability and a powerful business policy involved in it which gives greater significance to this forward stride of the American Theatrical industry. The accession and active executive guidance of such dynamic factors in finance and industry as Hiram S. Brown who withdraws from the presidency of the United States Leather Company; of David Sarnoff, vice-president and general manager of the Radio Corporation of America, who comes to the chairmanship of the Board of the Radio-Keith-Orpheum, and other constructive factors on the executive board, give an added impetus which no other form of amusement enterprise has ever known.

Ray Presents

(Continued from Page 6)

Arthur Dent, and many others, including government and literary representatives, among which was Arnold Bennett.

Charles Tennyson, C.M.G., was Chairman, and Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the Home Secretary, guest of honour, officiating for the President of the Film Board of the Federation of British Industries, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, who was absent owing to the death of his father.

Joseph I. Schnitzer President of FBO

Will Produce and Distribute For Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation.

J. I. SCHNITZER, elected President of FBO Productions, Inc., at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the company on December 3rd, is a veteran of the Motion Picture business.

He came into the Industry in his twentieth year, as Manager of the Des Moines branch of the Pittsburgh Calcium Light and Film Company. Within the next nine years, he was associated with the Mutual Film Service as manager of their Minneapolis branch and later became general manager of the same company with headquarters in Syracuse, New York.

In 1916, he was made branch manager and later division manager of Universal Pictures Corporation. Two years later, he was made general sales manager of the company.

From 1920 to 1922 he held the post of President of Equity Pictures Corporation, going from Equity to the vice-presidency of FBO in 1922. Last year, he was made senior vice-president of FBO.

Mr. Schnitzer was born in Pittsburgh on March 14th, 1887. He is married and has one son and one daughter. He is a member of the Rancho Golf Club, the Ambassador Athletic Club of Los Angeles, the Oak Ridge Golf Club, the Beach Point Club of New York, and the Motion Picture Club. He is 41 years old.

The new Board of Directors of FBO Productions, Inc., consists of Hiram S. Brown as Chairman of the Board, David Sarnoff, J. I. Schnitzer, Paul Mazur, Maurice Goodman, B. B. Kahane and Guy W. Currier.

William Le Baron and C. E. Sullivan remain as vice-presidents, C. J. Scollard and Thomas Delehanty remain as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Joseph P. Kennedy voluntarily retired from the company as Chairman of the Board and President.

FBO will serve as the motion picture producer and distributor of the newly organized Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation. The new company is associated with the Radio Corporation of America and its subsidiary, the RCA Photophone Company; with vaudeville by ownership of the Keith-Albee-Orpheum Corporation, with motion picture production and distribution through acquisition of FBO and with broadcasting through the co-operation to be given by the National Broadcasting Company.

Col. W. H. Price Attacks American Producers

Reported by Telegram as Saying American Producers May Be Behind "Carry On Sergeant" Trouble Rumour

The Toronto Telegram recently published a statement by Col. W. H. Price, Attorney-General of the Province of Ontario, which if not misinterpreted shows a lack of tact and courtesy to a neighbouring country which is deplorable in a government official.

There was much publicity in the Canadian Press in connection with the Canadian-made film, "Carry On Sergeant," produced at the Government Film Studio at Trenton; and with which film the Government of Ontario, has been indirectly affiliated since officials, whether officially, or unofficially helped through the extension of their patronage the financing for this production.

The Telegram reports Col. W. H. Price as stating that the Government was not concerned about the picture.

It appears that the press stories published opposition to the scenes which showed our soldiers as morally weak, especially open to query was the estaminet scene where very little is left to the imagination when a soldier and a French girl go "the way of all flesh."

The Telegram reports Col. Price as follows: "It ("Carry On Sergeant") has passed the Censors. If the people who own the picture think it ought to be toned down, that is their business, we think they have done a very public-spirited thing in putting up their money to produce a Canadian film. We merely loaned them the Government Studio at Trenton. We are very anxious to see more Canadian and British pictures shown here."

Col. Price is reported as having suggested that behind some of the objections to the picture there may be some American producers who are not anxious to see a Canadian Film Industry springing up. "They would naturally desire to see their own pictures continue to control the Canadian market, some of these pictures have to be very thoroughly censored," emphasized Col. Price.

Menace of Obscene Movies

Mrs. J. C. Keenan, President of the Toronto Archdiocesan sub-division of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, in a recent convention held at Welland, Ont., stated that the League was a great national body and as such must take Dominion-wide action in respect to removing the great menace of immoral literature, divorce, obscene movies and birth-control.

Famous Plan to Build Three Border Theatres

N. L. Nathanson States Famous Will Expend Half a Million On Border Theatre

N. L. Nathanson, President of the Famous Players Canadian Corp., states that his company will expend $500,000 on the erection of three new border theatres. One theatre will be erected at Moy Ave. and Ottawa St., Windsor, Ont., one at Ottawa St. and Lawrence Rd., Ford City, and the third on the west side of Windsor, the site of which has not yet been selected.

The theatres will open as Motion Picture houses, with stages built to include vaudeville when advisable and the necessary wiring for the installation of Vitaphone and Movietone equipment.

WANTED

Junior Motion Picture Photographers for Departments of National Defence and Trade and Commerce, Ottawa. Salary: until March 31, 1929, $1920 per annum; commencing April 1, $2160 per annum. Applications, together with samples of applicant's own photographic work, must be filed with the Civil Service Commission, Ottawa, not later than December 20th.

The Projector Predominant!

The Motiograph De Luxe Projector is in a class by itself by any comparison with any other make of Projector. This fact is proven by the demand for the Motiograph in the large Theatre Circuits. Quality of materials, perfection of design, smoothness in running, silence at any speed, and rock steady brilliant pictures. Easy to operate, and with little or no upkeep over the years of use.

The price in Canada, delivered to your Theatre, is the same as in the United States—

Model F—Front Shutter, Reflector Arc or Mazda $1,000.00

Model H—New Gate Shutter, Reflector Arc only 1,250.00

The only "extra" on these prices is the lens, according to choice.

You cannot afford to overlook the Motiograph from a standpoint of either quality or price.

THE COLEMAN ELECTRIC Co. - 258 Victoria St. - Toronto, Ont.

"Courtesy With Service"

"ON TRIAL"

VITAPHONE PICTURE IS AN ENTERTAINING REVELATION

"On Trial" is an adaptation of that unique stage success by Elmer Rice, which proved the hit of Broadway a few years ago.

It has been, according to the program, produced and reproduced by Western Electric System and apparatus, which simplified, means it is an all-talking Vitaphone picture.

It is the best of the all-talking feature films which I have yet seen for there are no titles, which means no compromise, all the characters talk, and the dialogue continues throughout the picture, holding the interest tense and alive, and registering "On Trial" as a Class A, as far as entertainment merit and box-office quality are concerned.

The story deals with the murder of a banker, "Gerald Trask," who, though married, is much of a philanderer. He receives $20,000 in cash, the payment on a loan he has made to Robert Strickland, whose wife he seduced when she was a young girl, under the pretext of marriage.

Meeting the girl, "May Strickland," as the wife of his friend, he threatens that he will tell her husband of her affair with him, colouring the story to protect himself, if she refuses to spend a day with him at his Long Branch home.

Threats of financial ruin to the husband are also a part of this gay Lothario's immoral wooing; and the wife goes, loses her bag at the Long Branch station, tries to lie to her husband in connection with her visit to Long Branch, but the husband senses what has transpired, and with gun in hand he seeks out the banker.

A robber, however, has got there ahead of him, getting away with the $20,000 just as Strickland shoots Trask, who comes downstairs in response to a telephone call from Strickland's wife warning him of his danger.

The story opens with the trial of Strickland; and the Jury, having heard the evidence, bring in a verdict of acquittal, even though Strickland has pleaded guilty.

The play has been faithfully adhered to, the evidence as given by the widow of Trask, by the wife of Strickland, their child, the secretary, "Glover," who turns out to be the robber, flashes back to the scenes which have built up the evidence, following the technique which made the play such a dramatic and unusual sensation.

Pauline Frederick, as the widow, looked the part. Her voice was not heard to the best advantage, but her facial expressions, her dignity, her restraint as the wife of a philandering husband who loves him despite his intrigues, helped to create the atmosphere and interest which the play required and presented.

Perhaps the very finest work, by way of voice reproduction, and heart interest was presented by Vondell Darr as "Doris Strickland." This child did marvellous work. Her court-scene would have made a life-termer cry, and certainly gave the picture its biggest scenes.

Bert Lytell as "Robert Strickland" was excellent, and his voice reproduction registered as big as his screen personality.

Another success in the new realm was Holmes Herbert as "Gerald Trask," the banker.

Richard Tucker gains glory in the role of the prosecuting attorney. Jason Robards is another "Talkie Winner" as the Defense Attorney. Johnny Arthur as the "thieving secretary," was also O.K. Fred Kelsey and Franklin Pangborn in their bits registered, while Edmund Breese, as the Judge, made a small part conspicuous for its merit. The same might be said of Edward Martindel as Dr. Morgan.

Here is a distinct achievement. A long cast of players with voices which harmonize in their timbre so that they blended each into the other, like the blood in a transfusion blends with the blood of the patient. It is fascinatingly interesting; and what is equally fascinating is the fact that the voices struck the ears of the audience naturally, well of a sufficient naturalness to avoid criticism.

"Pictures That Talk" are getting on. Here is a seven-leagued stride with very minor vocal imperfections. I cannot tell you whether there was any music running through the picture. If there was, I did not notice it, I was so interested in the dialogue. If there was it appears unnecessary since others, who are even as human as I must have come away without any definite impression of it.

Archie Mayo directed with dramatic skill. "On Trial" was made at the Warner Bros. Studios, Hollywood, and presented at the Warner Theatre, 52nd and Broadway.

I thought as I watched this picture, that it would fill as important a place as Radio does in those towns, villages, and cities where the cost of sending a play like "On Trial" en tour would be prohibitive for economic reasons.

Here is an opportunity for the little village to see all the successes presented in any Metropolis through the medium of the "Pictures That Talk."

It is a new angle on the question. "On Trial" is unquestionably a success!

—RAY LEWIS.

Round About the Studios

No wonder Harry Beaumont of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer looks happy, he is directing Bessie Love and Anita Page in "Broadway Melody."

The Gaumont Company Ltd. will shortly trade show "The Thoroughbred," a London Screen Play Production directed by Sidney Morgan, with Ian Hunter and Louise Dressing in the leading roles. The great attraction of "The Thoroughbred" is its true English atmosphere, and its beautiful backgrounds of English country lanes and villages, not to mention an excellent presentation of the English sporting festival, Derby Day. If America really wants pictures that show England as it is, "The Thoroughbred" is the picture it has been looking for.

Mary Pickford has chosen Johnny Mack Brown to play opposite her in her forthcoming all-talking screen production of "Coquette." He will play the part of "Michael." George Irving, long a player on the legitimate stage and known from his screen roles as "The American Father," has been chosen to play the role of the lawyer and close friend of the family.

Dorothy Parker, well-known poet and critic, left New York last Thursday for the coast, where she will do dialogue for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer talking pictures.

Pathe has purchased "The Flying Fool," an original story by Carey Wilson, as a William Boyd starring vehicle which will follow the production of "High Voltage," which is now in preparation.

"The Play Goes On," one of Universal's important pictures for the current season, is ready to go into production at Universal City. James Murray, one of the most promising featured juveniles on the screen, has been signed to play the leading role.

"Shifting Scenes" is the title of the new Lyman H. Howe's Hodge-Podge scheduled by Educational for early release.

"Bulldog Drummond," the famous English crook melodrama, is to be Ronald Colman's first talking picture. It will be made throughout with dialogue. Richard Jones will direct. The picture version of this play will go into production within the next two weeks and will be Colman's second individually starring picture.

"Where East is East," a melodramatic story of the Malay Peninsula, will be Lon Chaney's new starring vehicle for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, following "West of Zanzibar."

The voice of Pathe Sound News continues to rise in volume from coast to coast with the new bookings reported daily. Among the latest theatres signed are the Hill Street, Los Angeles; Palace, Youngstown, O.; Rivoli, Baltimore, Md.; Strand, Canton, O., and the Claridge, Montclair, N.J.

It is said that Alma Bennett, who plays one of the leading roles in the Tiffany-Stahl special production "Squads Right" now being directed by George Archainbaud, plays one of the greatest roles of her career in this production. After playing opposite Buster Collier and Ricardo Cortez in the Reginald Barker special production "New Orleans," her work so impressed John M. Stahl, Vice President Supervising Production of the Company, that he immediately placed Miss Bennett in one of the outstanding roles in "Squads Right" opposite Buster Collier and Eddie Gribbon.

John Boles and Jane Winton have been cast in "The Haunted Lady," starring Laura La Plante. It is for this production, directed by Wesley Ruggles, that Miss La Plante left New York so hurriedly for Universal City.

"Alias Jimmy Valentine," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's first picture with dialogue sequences, stepped into the S.R.O. class the day after its premiere at the Astor Theatre, Nw York, with standees for the matinee performance. New York critics gave the audience a great send-off, praising it as splndid entertainment and as William Haines' best story vehicle.

What could be more fitting! Universal has pitched upon the national release date of March 17th for "The Cohens and Kellys in Atlantic City." Its dialogue is now being recorded at Universal City's new sound studios. George Sidney and Mack Swain are the respective protagonists, while the assorted wives are, as usual, Vera Gordon and Kate Price.

Phyllis Haver is enjoying a few days rest between the completion of the silent version of "The Office Scandal" and the starting of the sound version of this Pathe newspaper picture.

Cecil B. DeMille announced last week that Conrad Nagel will have one of the two principal male roles in "Dynamite," the original story by Jeanie MacPherson which will shortly go into production at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio.

William Boyd's plans for a vacation between the completion of "The Leatherneck" and the starting of his next Pathe picture, "High Voltage" were knocked sky-high, when Producer Ralph Block called him back for additional scenes on the former. Pathe officials are so enthusiastic over "The Leatherneck" that they are leaving no stone unturned to make one of the outstanding pictures of the year.

An unusually fine supporting cast aids Jerry Drew in "Wives Won't Weaken," his new Educational-Ideal Comedy. Al Cook, well-known in comedies for several seasons, but a newcomer at the Educational Studios, acts as comedy foil for the high-hat funster, while Betty Boyd, Estelle Bradley, Robert Graves and Al Thompson also assist the star. In addition, there is a group of Hollywood's loveliest beauties in many of the sequences.

Raquel Torres, who was discovered among the Hollywood extras and given the feminine lead in "White Shadows in the South Seas," scores such a success in this role that she has been awarded one of the most important assignments of the new seasons. The eighteen-year-old Mexican girl will have the part of pepita in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's forthcoming production of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize novel, "The Bridge of San Luis Rey."

After ten days of intensive work in New York locations, Vilma Banky, Director Alfred Santell, and the entire Samuel Goldwyn company and technical staff left for the coast to complete Miss Banky's new picture of modern New York in the Goldwyn Studios in Hollywood. Ellis Island, the Bronx and upper Fifth Avenue were some of the localities filmed to give authentic local color to this story of an immigrant girl's first experience in the new country. James Hall has the male lead.

The ever-popular John Gilbert who co-stars with Greta Garbo in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "A Woman of Affairs."